

Rio Dell-Scotia News

FEB

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

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Some of the faces behind local Facebook pages

The role of social media today is unmistakable, locally as well as throughout the world. Two locally managed Facebook pages that seek to unify and inform Rio Dell-area residents each have more than 2,000 members. This article looks at the goals and challenges of their administrators. First of 2 parts.

Rio Dell Neighborhood Watch has a stated goal of making the city a “safe, family-friendly, and thriving community. By watching out for one another, we can build community and the ability to make a difference for future Rio Dell residents.”

The site has gone through some changes as it grew to its current 2400 members. It was begun by two women who turned the reins over in 2015 when one moved away and the other got spooked by the aggressive way some residents disagreed with her oversight. “They were nasty, they came to her house,” Kathy Wolfe Frye said. Despite that warning of the challenges she might face, Wolfe Frye and another woman took up the charge as replacements to the original administrators, but Wolfe Frye later let her co-administrator go “for the good of the group,” creating, she said, a schism that exists between them today.

Left alone with two or more hours per day of administration duties, Wolfe Frye put out a call for help and developed a team of a half-dozen moderators who pitch in to approve each message before it goes public - a requirement of the site – as well as manage other tasks relating to the admin role. They share a private Facebook page where they work out issues and concerns among them, and schedule coverage when others need to be offline.

Wolfe Frye notes that the make-up of the moderator group works well – two have small children “so they are up at night” while others have day jobs. Some manage other groups that familiarize them with local services and opportunities that they can share with the posters in need of help. There was a male moderator who moved on to attend the university, Wolfe Frye says, and she misses the male take on posts and the insights he could bring.

Wolfe Frye moved to Rio Dell 20 years ago when her third child was a newborn. “There were 1800 people here then and 3000 now,” she notes of the area’s growth, partially explaining the increase of the group size. Another reason for the explosive expansion of the site is the inclusion of people who are not current residents as was initially required – some are former residents wanting news of their hometown or have family members living in the area.

Today she is raising a grandson on the autistic spectrum and seeks to give him the experiences other children get to enjoy. She likes kayaking the river and crafting, terming herself “a Pinterest freak.” “There are so many good things about the community,” she says. “We have crime, but many don’t know what it was like here 20 years ago.” She speaks of “protecting our way of life, strengthening the capacity of organizations within it, and trying for a stronger community.”

“Social media can be bad or good,” she notes, so her philosophy is to “go with the good.” She discourages “tattle-tale-ing,” when someone points out a certain person was seen walking someplace. “The hardest part is not over-censoring,” she says. “Everyone has an opinion. Everything is a hot button with Covid. People have a right to their opinions.” (Continued on Page 4.)

Long-time Scotia fire chief retires

The Scotia Volunteer Fire Department’s Facebook page notes that John Broadstock officially retired at the end of 2021 after more than 30 years. Broadstock notes, “It has been an honor and privilege to serve and meet so many great people along the way who have become great friends.” He is pictured second from left with oldest son Chris, youngest son Tanner and middle son Rusty. Per Fire Chief Shane Wilson, Broadstock will be able to train and assist in future fires but will not be required to maintain coverage. Mike Jensen is the Scotia Battalion Chief. Broadstock’s position is appointed by the fire protection district board and will be filled at its discretion.



NEWS AND NOTES

Scotia Bluffs offers walk-in dental care, more

Dental care is available on a walk-in basis at Scotia Bluffs along with Covid testing and vaccines, according to Tracy Waid, chief operations officer. Most insurances are accepted, she notes, and one doesn't need to be a medical patient to receive dental care.

The expected opening of the new health care facility in the former Tru Valu hardware location in the Scotia shopping center has been pushed back to May due to supply-chain issues, she notes, as major portions of the project such as the heating system, have been delayed in arrival.

Need repairs to valuables after the earthquake?

Scotia resident Loretta Huntress reminds people of her repair and restoration service, for antiques, furnishings and cherished items of all kinds that may have become broken over time, or as recently as the earthquake that struck the area last month. Featured in the December, 2019 issue of this newsletter with references available, she looks forward to challenges in making old things good again. Contact her with your need to see what she can do to give new life to your possessions. Call 707.783.3209.



Advanced Security named 2021 Dealer of the Year

Chamber member Advanced Security Systems has been named Dealer of the Year by *Security Distributing and Marketing* magazine, a national trade journal representing the alarm industry.

"We are humbled and honored, especially as we celebrate our 50th year," president and CEO Chuck Petrusha said. The family-owned and operated business offers a complete line of security and life safety systems for residential and commercial customers and offices in Crescent City, Eureka, and Santa Rosa.

Tesla battery to go live in Rio Dell this month

A Tesla storage battery donated to the city in December is scheduled to go live mid-month following some work by PG&E and the manufacturer, according to City Manager Kyle Knopp. The "Rio Dell Big Battery" energy storage facility was made possible through the California Public Utility Commission's Equity Resilience Self-Generation Incentive Program created following the 2019 Public Safety Power Shutoffs.

The battery system can power both water and wastewater treatment systems for up to 20 hours independent from the electricity grid. The system also stores electricity during low pricing periods and offsets energy consumption during high price periods, thereby helping to reduce energy costs.

Knopp said these new capabilities "will enable us to better serve the community during potential future blackouts or other energy disrupting events."

City seeks public support for biking/walking trail

The Rio Dell Beautification Committee has been circulating petitions to promote the Eel River Bike/Walking trail. City Manager Kyle Knopp says "We need community support to pull down grant funding to make the trail happen. We don't want to be the only city in Humboldt County without this type of facility for outdoor exercise and recreation. It's important that we receive signatures, letters and any other kind support for this project."

Update on area girl's service dog fundraising

The family of Kymber Linn, a young girl with autism, has been raising funds to finance a service dog, as reported in a recent issue of this newsletter. Her grandmother is Deborah Jean Savio of Rio Dell. The family is half-way to the \$17,000 goal, and has identified a firm, Superdog Service Dogs near the Bay area, that will train and supply the animal. Those wishing to contribute can use the gofundme site here: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/an-autism-service-dog-for-kymber-linn>.

Get involved! Join chamber monthly call-in meetings to share ideas

The chamber of commerce board meets on the first Friday of the month at noon by phone. Meetings are always open to the public. Call to hear what is being discussed, share ideas and see where you can help! The next meeting is Feb. 4 at noon. Call 605-313-4802 and at the prompt, enter access code 860467.

NEWS AND NOTES continued on page 3.

Family stops traffic for good causes

Stop ‘n Go Traffic Control is a local, family-owned business that manages traffic safety when work is being done in or near a roadway. Rio Dell native Wes Nally, wife Nancy and their three children and sometimes grandchildren sally forth with cones, signs, vests, and radios to help people navigate roads that are under construction or being affected by unusual circumstances.



Nancy, Justin and Wes Nally



Sidney Bishop

Like around Reggae on the River; the Redwood Run, an annual motorcycle event near Piercy; and the Avenue of the Giants Marathon, all of which they continue to work, although Wes notes he is now formally retired. And they rolled out the cones and unfurled the orange flags when the chamber put up holiday lights on the Eagle Prairie Bridge in early December, and then took them down (as required by Cal Trans) five weeks later.

“We did traffic management for about 25 years,” Nally said, including major projects like at Confusion Hill; it sprang from a road construction business he ran. He speaks fondly of Cal-Trans staff. “They are great people, they make it work,” he says of his years of interacting with the large organization. “I still have a Class A license in that,” he said of road building. For traffic control, Cal Trans requires a C31 license, which involves passing a state test.

“My parents lived here, I was born in Scotia Hospital,” Nally notes. His children live in the area. Son Justin recently moved to Carlotta but turned out for the Sunday morning shift when the bridge lights came down. Granddaughter Sidney Bishop, who works for the Rio Dell school district in various capacities, started the morning and her mom, Staci Leeper, stepped in later to hold the Stop/Slow sign.

NEWS AND NOTES CONT. FROM PAGE 2 ——— Stories we’re hoping to have more on, soon

Kreations is opening two new auto body repair facilities, on Broadway in Eureka and across from the high school Fortuna which reportedly will offer training to high school students interested in an auto body career.

Margro Advisors, a cannabis consulting firm, has its office on Wildwood Avenue and was credited with encouraging the city council to support the lowering of taxes due to go into effect this year for cannabis growers, due to the declining price of the product.

Hoby’s has a new owner, scheduled to take over at newsletter deadline. Stop in and say Hi!



The HWMA Tire Recycling Program is back!

The Hawthorne Street Transfer Station in Eureka will accept up to nine auto or light truck tires per day at no extra charge. It’s ok if they’re on rims. No business-generated tires please. This program is only for household generated tires. The program runs until next summer.

This program is funded by Cal Recycle.

Call or email us for details:: 268-8680 or info@hwma.net

www.hwma.net

Humboldt Waste Management Authority

1059 W. Hawthorne St., Eureka, CA 95501



(Local Facebook pages continued from Page 1.)

She appreciates the support she gets from the community, posting about things they need or can offer. “You spend a lot of time trying to figure out how to help,” she notes.

Much of the work she and the moderators do involves enforcing Facebook rules. Most rules about what is not allowed don’t come from the moderators or administrator but from Facebook, she says, and “if they call us out, we are at risk of losing the page.” “Some things don’t feel like bullying, but Facebook sees that,” she adds, and contacts her when certain trigger words like “rape,” “assault” or “attack” appear in messages.



Kathy Wolfe Frye

But some residents wanted a site with less structure. That led to the creation in 2018 of the “Unplugged” site by Susan Teague, who participated in the original Watch group, but had “a disagreement with the philosophy,” and formed what she sees as a sister group with “less tight control.” Like the original, the Unplugged site, clocking in at 2,300 members, draws many participants from out of the area – more than half, according to Teague, who now is one of those, herself. She moved to Florida, her “first love,” over a year ago after spending three years in the area helping a sister, now living in Fortuna, with medical issues.

She shares the admin duties with Leanne Langston, whom she met when both were living in the River’s Edge RV Park. They only met in person a couple times, but they had shared experience in their respective fields working with the elderly over which they bonded, and they agreed to share the site. “You need to be invested emotionally” but not necessarily physically, to do the admin job, Teague says, and despite the geographic distance, she remains very engaged in the doings of Rio Dell. “It intrigues and entertains me,” she says, adding it is “the best of all possible worlds” for a self-described “loner nerd” to “get a peek into a world I don’t otherwise match.”

Having completed a major in psychology and a minor in sociology before going on for a nursing degree, she is interested in both physical and mental health. She says of her partnering with Langston that it is a “good pairing,” and that they work well together because they bring differing points of view. “Leanne is very proficient,” Teague says, but also has a job and “a lot to do,” while Teague is retired. As with the original group, the pair share a private page where they communicate on various issues that affect the operation of the group. Between them, she estimates it takes an hour per day to manage the site.



Leanne Langston



Sue Teague

A lot of what they do is “vet new people” – sometimes there is a vague profile, and they want to make sure they know who a person is before admitting them to the group. “The purpose of the site is adults discussing adult content,” she says, so she needs to make sure people wanting to join aren’t minors. Some of what they do is “kick people out” – for failing to abide by the rules or trying to come back, perhaps under an assumed identity, after being asked to leave. As with the original site, the admins work within the rules of Facebook, which flags messages with content that is seen as potentially harmful and asks for intervention. “We talk to them first,” Teague says, to try to get posters to change their wording. **To be Continued**



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